

Bureau of Health Professions

TO: National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program Recipients
Eligible for Deferment of NHSC Service Obligations for Postgraduate
Training in 2002-03

FROM: Acting Director
Division of National Health Service Corps

SUBJECT: Requesting Deferment of Service for the 2002-03 Postgraduate Training Year

The Public Health Service Act authorizes, under Section 338C, that physicians and dentists may request deferment to complete specialized training prior to the beginning of their service obligations.

Please review the attached **Deferment Information Bulletin** for Training Year 2002-03. The **Deferment Information Bulletin** describes the guidelines, conditions, and terms of deferment. The information in this **Bulletin** addresses issues for Year 2002 graduates of medical and dental schools, as well as physicians and dentists who are continuing residency training during the period July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003. After reading the **Bulletin**, fill out the enclosed preprinted **Deferment Request Form (DRF)**, correct it where necessary and **sign and return the original**. **All DRFs must be postmarked by Friday, April 26, 2002**, and sent to the Scholarship Programs Branch, Division of National Health Service Corps, BHPr, 4350 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Upon approval of your deferment, a copy of the DRF will be returned for your records. A self-addressed return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

We are also enclosing, for your information, the Administrative Guidelines for NHSC Postdoctoral Scholars Who Wish to Participate in the National Research Service Award (NRSA) Program. **We strongly encourage you to notify us of your intent to pursue a NRSA Fellowship as soon as possible.**

Should you require assistance with the Deferment Request Form or need explanations of the enclosed materials, please call the Scholarship Programs Branch at 301-594-4410 or 1-800-793-1547, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Donald L. Weaver, M.D.
Assistant Surgeon General

Attachments:
Deferment Request Materials
Administrative Guidelines for Participation in NRSA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration
Bureau of Health Professions

DEFERMENT INFORMATION BULLETIN

**DEFERRING THE SERVICE OBLIGATIONS
OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
FOR APPROVED POSTGRADUATE TRAINING**

For Year 2002 Graduates
of Schools of
Allopathic and Osteopathic Medicine
and Dentistry

and

For NHSC Scholars Continuing Approved Deferments
for the 2002-2003 Training Year

Division of National Health Services Corps
4350 East-West Highway
10th Floor
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
Telephone: 301-594-4410 or 1-800-793-1547
Fax: 301-594-4985

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. Program Authorities	1
II. Program Administration	1
III. Definitions.	1-2
IV. Deferment Request Process	2-3
V. General Rules for Deferments.	3-5
Term and Conditions of Deferment	4
Failure to Meet Terms and Conditions of Deferment	5
VI. Deferments for Physicians	5-9
VII. Deferments for Dentists	9-10
VIII. Licensure	10
IX. Suspensions of the Service Obligation	10-11
X. Summary of Deadlines	11
XI. Instructions for Completing the Deferment Request Form	12-14
XII. Deferment Request Form Samples	15-18

PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0915-0179. Public reporting burden for the applicant for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-33, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

This **Bulletin** is for National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program participants: (1) who are graduating in 2002 from schools of allopathic medicine (M.D.), osteopathic medicine (D.O.) and schools of dentistry (D.D.S. and D.M.D.) and (2) physicians and dentists who are continuing in approved postgraduate training programs and must confirm their training status for the 2002-2003 training year for deferments of service.

The **Bulletin** is based on the current Federal statutes, regulations, and administrative guidelines in effect for the NHSC Scholarship Program. It describes the terms and conditions for a deferment of your NHSC Scholarship Program service obligation to pursue approved postgraduate training (residency).

I. PROGRAM AUTHORITIES FOR DEFERMENTS

A. **Federal Statute:**

Section 338C of the Public Health Service Act
(Title 42 United States Code, Section 254m).

B. **Federal Regulation:**

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 62, Subpart A,
"National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program."

II. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Deferments of the service obligation under the NHSC Scholarship Program are administered by the Scholarship Programs Branch (SPB) of the Division of National Health Service Corps (DNHSC), 4350 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, Telephone number is 301-594-4410 or 1-800-793-1547 during office hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. The 24-hour Telefax number is 301-594-4985.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. **"Deferment"** - a delay in an NHSC Scholarship Program service obligation granted upon a scholar's request by the Director, DNHSC, for a specified period of time to enter and complete approved postgraduate training, in accordance with the program's Federal statute and regulations, and the administrative guidelines set forth in this Bulletin. Requests for deferment are reviewed annually, and are granted in 1-year increments.

B. **"Period of Time to Complete a Residency"** - means the minimum period of approved postgraduate clinical training required for a physician and dentist to sit for a specialty board's certifying examination(s).

- C. **"Postgraduate Training"** - means the postgraduate clinical training accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (M.D. programs), approved by the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association (D.O. programs), or approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (D.D.S. and D.M.D programs).
- D. **"Approved Postgraduate Training"** - means postgraduate training in a primary care program which has been approved by DNHSC, consistent with the needs of the NHSC. See Sections VI. and VII. below.
- E. **"Suspension of the Service Obligation"** - The Director, Office of Policy and Planning (OPP) may grant a delay in the service obligation, in intervals of up to 1 year, for reasons other than for approved postgraduate training. Requests for suspensions must be submitted in writing to the OPP with the required documentation. For more information, see Section IX. of this Bulletin.
- F. **"General Medical Officer (GMO)"** - An NHSC scholarship recipient who has completed at least 1 year of approved postgraduate training as specified in Section VI.B. below, but has not satisfied the specialty training requirements for admission to the written certifying examination(s) of a primary care specialty board, is placed as a GMO to fulfill the recipient's service obligation. Most GMO placements are with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Indian Health Service. For more information, see Sections V.A. and VI.H. of this Bulletin.

IV. DEFERMENT REQUEST PROCESS

To receive a deferment of the service obligation, a physician or dental scholar **must annually request permission in writing** to pursue approved postgraduate training, and the **DNHSC must annually approve** the physician's or dentist's request.

In March of the next to the last year of medical or dental school, SPB staff mails a preliminary information packet, including a sample Deferment Request Form (DRF), to all physician and dental scholars. The packet is designed 1) to notify physician and dental scholars of the current programs of approved postgraduate training for purposes of their participation in the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and 2) to familiarize physician and dental scholars with the requirements for requesting and receiving approval of a deferment prior to the beginning of **each** training year.

In March of the final year of medical or dental school (and in March of each subsequent training year), SPB staff will mail a similar packet to each physician and dental scholar. Each packet will contain a DRF. To obtain a deferment to pursue approved postgraduate

training, physicians and dentists **must promptly complete a DRF and return it to the SPB by the deadline set forth in the accompanying Bulletin.** The timely submission of a completed DRF is necessary to give the SPB sufficient time to evaluate the request and notify the physician or dentist of its approval or disapproval of the deferment request prior to the beginning of the new training year in July. **Should you fail to obtain a position in the postgraduate training we have approved, you must notify the SPB at once in writing.**

SPB staff will mail the deferment packets to the last known address of record listed in your personal scholarship file in March of each year. **It is your responsibility to immediately notify us in writing of any change in address.** If you have moved and failed to notify the SPB of your new address, the packet is returned to us as undeliverable. Failure to provide a completed DRF **yearly** can result in you being expected to immediately begin serving your NHSC service obligation (if eligible) or you being **considered in default** of your scholarship obligation.

Please note that in certain circumstances (e.g., requesting to change residency programs or to pursue a chief residency position), the SPB also requires advanced written notice of the requested change and/or additional information in order for staff to make a timely decision concerning the deferment request. Please consult Section VI. of this Bulletin for a description of the required letter and/or information. If further clarification is needed, contact the Scholarship Programs Branch at 301-594-4410 or 1-800-793-1547 prior to completion of the form.

V. GENERAL RULES FOR DEFERMENTS

The statute, 42 U.S.C. 254m (b)(5), provides that, if you are a physician or dentist, you may be granted a deferment at your request to complete postgraduate training **only** if the training is in a specialty specified as needed by the NHSC.

A. **Physicians**

If you are graduating in 2002 as a physician (M.D. or D.O.), you must complete at least 1 year of approved postgraduate training as specified in Section VI.B. below, and you are strongly encouraged (for the reasons set forth in the NOTE below) to request additional years of deferment to complete a residency in one of the primary care specialties set forth below in Section VI.A.2.

NOTE: The NHSC's experience clearly indicates that obligated physicians

who have not completed residencies (i.e., GMOs) are less prepared to fulfill their service obligations, have extremely limited placement opportunities (mostly with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Indian Health Service, and the

Division of Immigration Health Services of the Immigration and Naturalization Services) are less successful in competing for assignments (sites and communities prefer fully trained primary care physicians), and are having increasing difficulty in obtaining hospital admitting privileges.

If a physician fails to enter approved postgraduate training or decides to enter unapproved postgraduate training, he or she will be placed in default and be liable to pay damages equal to three times the amount of the scholarship plus interest.

2. Dentists

If you are graduating in 2002 as a dentist, you have an option to request a deferment to complete postgraduate training in one of the primary care dental specialties set forth below in Section VII.A.2. If you decide not to proceed with postgraduate training, you will begin service as a general practice dentist upon your graduation from dental school. **NHSC will not pay for support while in dental residency programs.**

C. Postgraduate Training Incurring Service Obligations

Deferments will **not be approved** by the DNHSC for postgraduate training conducted by any entity that imposes a service obligation, such as a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States.

D. The Terms and Conditions of Deferment:

1. Pursue only the training we have officially approved for your deferment.
2. Prior to each year of training, submit documentation to us of your training status in the approved program. (Submission of an annual Deferment Request Form meets this requirement.)
3. Make no changes in your period or type of training without prior written approval from the DNHSC.
4. Notify the SPB, DNHSC, in writing, **within 30 days of** any change of status, e.g., change of address, intent to terminate training, intent to transfer to another residency program, or similar change.

E. Failure to Meet the Terms and Conditions of Deferment

1. Physicians

If you fail to comply with the terms and conditions of your deferment, prior to completing at least 1 year of approved postgraduate training as specified in Section VI.B. below, you will be placed in default and be liable for liquidated damages equal to three times the amount of your scholarship award plus interest. If you fail to comply with the terms and conditions of deferment after completion of at least 1 year of approved postgraduate training as specified in Section VI.B., you will be placed as a GMO (See Section VI.H. in this Bulletin). If you fail to accept your assignment, you will be placed in default and be liable for payment of the liquidated damages.

1. Dentists

If you fail to comply with the terms and conditions of your deferment, you will be placed as a general practice dentist. If you fail to accept your assignment, you will be placed in default and be liable for payment of the liquidated damages equal to three times the amount of your scholarship plus interest.

VI. DEFERMENTS FOR PHYSICIANS

A. Multi-Year Deferments

1. The Director, DNHSC, will grant deferments (in 1-year increments) for physicians, upon written request, for postgraduate (residency) training in specialty programs which are needed by the NHSC Scholarship Program.

2. Specialties Approved by the DNHSC for Deferment are:

a.	Family Practice	3 Years
b.	General Internal Medicine	3 Years
c.	General Pediatrics	3 Years
d.	Obstetrics-Gynecology	4 Years
e.	General Psychiatry	4 Years

B. One-Year Deferments

Written requests from physicians to pursue postgraduate training of only 1 year in duration are **discouraged by the NHSC Scholarship Program**. The NHSC Scholarship Program strongly recommends that physicians enter an approvable residency after completing their internship. The NHSC's experience clearly indicates that obligated physicians who have not completed residencies are less prepared to fulfill their service obligation and have extremely limited placement opportunities (mostly with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Indian Health Service and the Division of Immigration Health Services of the Immigration and Naturalization Services).

One-year postgraduate training approved by DNHSC for deferment includes: (1) an allopathic flexible first year program whose sponsorship includes approved residencies in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, or a categorical first-year program in family practice, internal medicine or pediatrics; (2) a rotating internship in osteopathic medicine; or (3) such other programs as the Secretary determines that provides comparable experience. A postgraduate training program which provides comparable experience should consist of at least 8 months of primary care experience in: family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology and psychiatry. **A copy of the curriculum of the 1-year postgraduate training must be submitted with the Deferment Request Form for review and approval by the DNHSC.**

C. Dual Residency Programs

The SPB/DNHSC may approve dual residency training in primary care specialties (Family Practice, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, Obstetrics-Gynecology, and General Psychiatry). Requests for dual residency for the 2002-2003 training year should be submitted as soon as you know but must be submitted in writing with your upcoming DRF, along with a description of the dual residency program, and a letter of acceptance from the program director stating your anticipated start and completion dates. All requests must be approved by DNHSC prior to the scholar accepting positions in these programs. Therefore, we encourage you to submit them as soon as possible. The dual residency program must meet the definition of "postgraduate training." See Section III. of this Bulletin. Final decisions will be based on the needs of the NHSC. Those who are trained in dual residencies must be aware that placement opportunities where both specialties can be fully utilized may be limited. As a

result, placement may be in sites that will only utilize one of their specialties.

D. Switching Residency Programs

If you are granted a deferment for 2002-2003 and then during that year desire to switch to another postgraduate training program in the same or a different approvable specialty for the 2003-2004 training year (See Section VI.A.2.), you must submit with your upcoming DRF, a letter from your new program director indicating the beginning and anticipated completion dates in the new residency program. The letter should also included how much credit will be given for prior residency training.

E. Osteopathic Physicians Switching to a Multi-Year Allopathic Residency ("Crossover")

If you are an osteopathic physician in your first year of approved postgraduate training, and are granted a deferment for 2002-2003, and then during that year desire a "crossover" residency in an allopathic program approved for osteopaths for the 2003-2004 training year, you must submit with your upcoming DRF, a letter from your new program director indicating the beginning and anticipated completion dates in the new residency program. The letter should also include how much credit you will be given for prior residency training, thus, enabling you to be admitted at the PGY-2 level. If the credit is denied (documentation is required), a deferment will be granted up to 1 additional year to complete the allopathic residency program.

**F. Deferring for Chief Residency Positions (2003-2004 Training Year)
Request to SPB/DNHSC by February 28, 2003**

1. Should you be offered a 1-year Chief Residency position by your training program, the Director, DNHSC, **may** grant the added deferment year **if** :
(1) a written request for the additional year of deferment is received by the SPB/DNHSC on or before **February 28, 2003**; (2) the request includes a copy of your program director's letter of invitation stating your anticipated start and completion dates, a description of the chief residency position and your responsibilities, and a brief description from you of how you plan to use the additional training in your NHSC career; and (3) the SPB/DNHSC agrees to release you from the placement process in which you are participating.
2. **The SPB/DNHSC's decision to release you from the NHSC's**

placement process will be based largely on the demand for your specialty that year.

3. **Please do not sign your Chief Residency contract before you have requested and received from the Director, DNHSC, written approval of your additional year's deferment.**
4. Any request received after the **February 28, 2003**, deadline will not be approved.

G. Previously Approved Combined/Integrated Programs and Fellowships

The combined/integrated residency programs which were listed as possible approved graduate training for physicians during the 2001-2002 training year are not approved for the 2002-2003 training year, except as follows. Physicians who received a deferment for the 2001-2002 training year to pursue a combined/integrated residency program will continue to be eligible to receive deferments to complete that combined/integrated residency. For example, a physician who received a deferment to pursue a combined Internal Medicine and Masters of Public Health (IM/MPH) program during the 2001-2002 training year will be eligible to receive additional deferments to complete that combined program. However, a physician seeking to begin or switch to a combined IM/MPH program for the 2002-2003 training year will not be granted a deferment for that combined program.

The fellowships which were listed as possible approved graduate training for physicians during the 2002-2003 training year are not approved for the 2003-2004 training year, except as follows. Physicians who received a deferment for the 2002-2003 training year to pursue a fellowship will continue to be eligible to receive an additional deferment, if necessary, to complete that fellowship. For example, a physician who received a deferment to pursue a child psychiatry (CHILD/PSY) fellowship during the 2002-2003 training year will be eligible to receive an additional deferment to complete that fellowship, if necessary. However, a physician seeking to begin a CHILD/PSY fellowship in the 2003-2004 training year will not be granted a deferment for that fellowship.

H. Ending Training to Begin Service

If you decide at any time during your deferment that you want to discontinue your residency and begin your service obligation, please contact the SPB/DNHSC at once for advice and instructions.

If you will have completed at least 1 year of approved postgraduate training as

specified in Section VI.B. above, you will be referred to the Provider Support Branch for assignment as a GMO. Most GMO placements are with the

Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Indian Health Service and the Division of Immigration Health Services of the Immigration and Naturalization Services. See Section V.A. of this Bulletin for a more detailed explanation of the difficulties faced by GMOs. If you have not completed at least one year of approved postgraduate training as specified in Section VI.B. above, you will be placed in default.

If you wish to terminate your OB/GYN or psychiatry training prior to its completion, you will be required to provide information concerning the curriculum that you have completed or will complete, prior to leaving your training. A physician who has not completed an OB/GYN or psychiatry residency must have completed comparable primary care clinical experience (as defined in Section VI.B. above) to serve as a GMO.

NOTE: The NHSC requires all clinicians to take all three parts of their medical licensing examinations (USMLE or NBOME) as soon as possible. Passing these examinations is required to obtain a medical license, and a medical license must be obtained so that clinicians can start fulfilling their service obligation immediately upon completion of their approved postgraduate training.

VII. DEFERMENTS FOR DENTISTS

A. **One-Year and Multi-Year Deferments**

1. The Director, DNHSC, will grant deferments (in 1-year increments) for dentists, upon written request, for postgraduate (residency) training in specialty programs which are needed by the NHSC Scholarship Program.
2. Dental Specialties Approved for Deferment are:
 1. General Practice Dentistry 1 Year
 - b. General Pediatrics Dentistry 2 Years
3. Requests for longer periods of dental postgraduate training **may** be approved by the Director, DNHSC, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the needs of the NHSC.

2. Notice Deadlines: March 1 of Senior Year

Notice of your intent to request a deferment should be received by us no later than **March 1 of your last year of dental school**. Any request received after the

March 1 deadline will not be approved. In addition, you should submit a DRF in the Spring by the stated deadline, giving complete information about the proposed program. If you do not request a deferment, you will become available to begin your service obligation, as a general practice dentist, upon your graduation from dental school.

NOTE: If you request postgraduate training in any field other than “general practice”, **you should be aware** that you may be matched to a position as a general practice dentist with little or no opportunity to utilize that additional specialized training. The needs of the community to be served and the site’s arrangements for the delivery of dental services will determine the scope of practice expected.

VIII. LICENSURE EXAMINATION

A. **Physicians**

Please be advised that it is your responsibility to select a residency program that will adequately prepare you to sit for the USMLE or NBOME and obtain the appropriate license to practice in the United States. You must have a license prior to being placed at a site, and you must commence your service obligation upon completion of your residency program.

B. **Dentists**

Regional dental examinations must be taken prior to completion of all dental residency programs. Passing of these examinations is a requirement in order to obtain a dental license before a scholar can start fulfilling their service commitment.

IX. SUSPENSIONS OF THE SERVICE OBLIGATION

A. **Medical and Personal Suspensions**

Suspensions may be granted in intervals of up to 1 year. The Director, Office of Policy and Planning, would determine if compliance with the obligation is temporarily impossible based on information from you and independent documentation from health professionals treating you that you suffer from a physical or mental disability resulting in your temporary inability to comply with your scholarship obligation. A suspension may also be granted if you can document any problems of a personal nature such as physical or mental disability, or terminal illness in your immediate family, which so intrude

on your ability to perform as to raise a presumption that you would be temporarily unable to perform the service obligation you have incurred. Other required documentation needed to support your request for a suspension would include your present and future financial resources and obligations. Requests for suspensions must be submitted in writing to the Legal and Compliance Branch, Office of Policy and Planning, 4350 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, Telephone 301-594-4390. Suspensions are only for documented extreme hardships and are not approved for a spouse in training, children in school, etc.

B. Failure to Pass Licensure Examination

The Director, Office of Policy and Planning, may grant suspensions of the service obligation for recipients who fail to pass the licensure examination. Recipients must provide documentation to the Legal and Compliance Branch, Office of Policy and Planning, 4350 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, Telephone 301-594-4390, showing that they have taken the appropriate examination, each time the licensure examination is given, and the results of the examinations.

Note: You are expected to take the next scheduled examination.

X. SUMMARY OF DEFERMENT DEADLINE DATES (PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 1. | April 26, 2002 | Return of Deferment Request Form. |
| B. | March 1 of Last
Year of Dental School | Notice of Intent to Request Deferment for
Postgraduate Dental Training. |
| 3. | February 28, 2003 | Request for Chief Residency Starting in 2003. |
| D. | April 1, 2003 | Deadline for Confirmation from Program
Director for NRSA Fellowship Starting in
2003. |

INSTRUCTIONS

For Completing the Deferment Request Form
for the period July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003

- A. **Additions or Corrections:** (1) If you are presently in deferment, part of the Deferment Request Form (DRF) will be preprinted. **If this information is incorrect, please make corrections using a blue or black ink ball-point pen.** (2) If you are requesting a deferment for the first time, you should fill in all the blanks.
- B. **Signature/Authority to Complete:** It is unlawful for anyone other than the scholarship recipient to complete and sign the DRF without first obtaining a Power-of-Attorney (POA). If anyone other than the scholar completes the form, a copy of the POA must accompany the DRF.
- C. **Social Security Number:** Please check to be sure it is correct.
- D. **Name, Address, Home Telephone Number and Email Address:** The preprinted information reflects the current data in your Scholarship Program records. If the data is incorrect, draw a single line through the incorrect data and enter the correct information. If your name has changed, enclose legal documentation certifying your name change. **The address should be the address where you receive your mail.** We will use this address to contact you. Enter your home telephone number and email address.
- E. **Postgraduate Residency Program:** (Please refer to the **Deferment Information Bulletin** for the primary care postgraduate training for which we may grant deferments.) If blank, enter the correct name of your specialty. For example, if your residency is an osteopathic program in internal medicine, the display will read: "INTERNAL MEDICINE (D.O.)." A combined allopathic program leading to dual certification in internal medicine and pediatrics would be displayed as: "INTERNAL MEDICINE & PEDIATRICS." A dental program in pediatrics will read: "PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY (D.D.S.)."

For allopathic residency programs, please include the 10-digit program ID # that is listed in the American Medical Association Graduate Medical Education Yearbook and Directory.

- F. **Length of Program:** Enter or verify the number of years required for the postgraduate training you are entering or for which you have already been deferred.

Osteopathic physicians who plan to enter an osteopathic internal medicine residency should include the required postgraduate year of osteopathic internship in counting years. For example, if you enter a 3-year osteopathic internal medicine residency after your osteopathic internship, you would enter a total of "4 years" in this space.

Should you fail to obtain a position in the postgraduate training we have approved, you must notify the Scholarship Programs Branch at once.

Physicians unsure of their plans beyond your first year of residency should request deferment for the entire period of training beyond the first year. **Physicians are encouraged to complete residency training. The NHSC has experienced great difficulty finding suitable General Medical Officer placements for physicians who have not completed residencies.**

Physicians who fail to enter an approved primary care postgraduate training program or if you decide to enter an unapproved residency will be in breach of their contractual agreement.

- G. **Date Available for Service:** Show the first day of the month after your training ends; for example, if the last day of your training program is June 25, 2003, enter "07/01/03" in this space. Requests for extensions beyond the normal period required to complete your residency in an approved specialty must be accompanied by an explanation from you and confirming documentation from your training director, giving the new date you expect to complete your residency.
- H. **Residency Program Director's Name and Telephone Number:** Enter name of the residency program director and his/her telephone number.
- I. **Clinic Address of Residency Program:** Enter the clinic address of residency program. If preprinted information is not correct, please cross through and update.
- J. **Work Telephone Number:** Enter the clinical telephone number where you can be reached during the day, include your extension or beeper number.
- K. **Contact Person:** Provide the name of a person, an address and telephone number, other than at your own address or clinical address, through whom we can contact you.
- L. **Recipient's Signature:** Your signature certifies, under Federal penalties, that the information provided in the DRF is accurate and complete to the best of your knowledge and belief. Please check the DRF again before you sign, date, and return it to us.
- M. **DRF Samples:** Attached are samples of completed DRFs requesting first year and continued deferment for postgraduate training.

DEADLINE:

1. Physicians

Your DRF must be postmarked by FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2002. If we do not receive your DRF by the deadline and you have not completed 1 year of approved postgraduate training as specified in Section VI.B., you will be subject to liquidated damages prescribed by Federal law. **If you have completed at least 1 year of approved postgraduate training as specified in Section VI.B. above, you will be sent a letter notifying you that you will be placed as a GMO. If you fail to accept your assignment, you will be subject to the liquidated damages prescribed by Federal law.**

2. Dentists

Dentists are not required to participate in postgraduate training. However, if you decide to pursue postgraduate training, your DRF must be postmarked by FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2002. **If you decide not to request postgraduate training, you will begin service as a general practice dentist upon your graduation from dental school. If you fail to accept your assignment, you will be placed in default and be liable for payment of the liquidated damages prescribed by Federal law.**

PRIVACY ACT NOTIFICATION STATEMENT

This information is provided pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 94-579) of December 31, 1974, as amended, for individuals supplying information for inclusion in a system of records.

If you have questions about completing the DRF, please call the NHSC Scholarship Programs Branch at 301-594-4410 or 1-800-793-1547 during office hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.